

Cover design by Thomas F. Maxson
Cover layout and production by Ryan T. Maxson

The cover design includes a photo of the Michael Keropian model sculpture of Chief Nimham, with both photo and model sculpture courtesy of Mr. Keropian. For more information on the sculpture, how to contribute to the full-scale casting of this amazing work of art, and to learn of Mr. Keropian's many other projects and works, please visit his website at: <http://www.keropiansculpture.com>

The cover design also includes photos of Mount Nimham Civil War veterans William Niles Dean, his brother John Haviland Dean, and William D. Light. These photos are provided courtesy of the Kent Historical Society, and we would also like to thank the late Mrs. Addison Hopkins, the niece of the Dean brothers. For more information regarding the Kent Historical Society and their programs and activities, please visit their web page at: <http://www.townofkentny.gov/historian.htm>

In May of 2009, the Daniel Nimham Statue Committee was formed as an "ad hoc" committee of the Kent Historical Society. The purpose of this ad hoc committee is to plan and oversee the solicitation of financial and public support leading to the creation of Mr. Keropian's sculpture for both the Wappinger Memorial and the entrance to the Kent Town Hall Complex. For more information, or to contribute to this worthy endeavor, please contact the author at: thomasmaxson@highlandspreservation.org

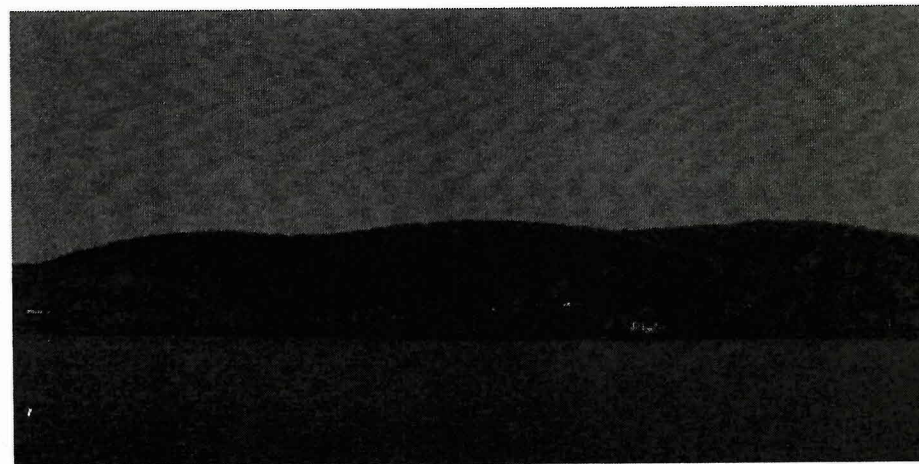
The Kent Conservation Advisory Committee completed the restoration of the fire tower atop the mountain in 2005. This volunteer organization advises the Town Board on conservation and open space utilization issues, helping to preserve Kent's natural, rural character. For more information regarding their activities, including their annual hiking series, please visit their website at: <http://www.townofkentny.gov/conservation.htm>

The *Nimham Mountain Singers* is an organization dedicated to preserving Native American Indian culture, traditions, and spirituality. This organization performs at the annual Daniel Nimham Pow Wow held at the Putnam County Veteran's Park, located in the shadow of the mountain, an extraordinary event which they also organize each year. They also perform at schools, civic events and other pow wows, and offer a complete educational program of drumming, traditional songs and dances, and Wappinger cultural history designed for children and adults. For more information, or to contribute to the creation of the Chief Daniel Nimham statue, please visit their website at: <http://www.nimham.com/>

MOUNT NIMHAM: THE RIDGE OF PATRIOTS *HISTORICAL TIMELINE*

Including Coles Mills and Big Hill

*The first in a series of historical timelines covering the
people, places and events in the town of Kent,
Putnam County, New York*



**By Thomas F. Maxson
Chairman**

Highlands Preservation, Inc.

*A Non-Profit Organization Dedicated to Preserving Historic and Prehistoric Sites
in the Hudson Highlands*

**Rangerville Press
Kent, New York**

**A Division of Robert Sterling Publishing, Inc.
Molokai, Hawaii**

© 2005 - 2009 Thomas F. Maxson
February 23, 2010

many years, while his brother, Clarence James Townsend, served as Town Historian, in the mid to late 1900s.

John Wixon, and later his son, Wright Wixon, owned a farm on what is now the end of Cole Shears Court on the western edge of the mountain. They were descendants of Peleg Wixon of Carmel. A stone chamber which faces out toward the road, directly adjacent to the road itself, bears witness to the existence of this farm.

The patriot Samuel Hawkins, and later his nephews (Henry E., Moseman, and his twin, "Night" Light), owned property at the northern end of the mountain, along what is known today as Maynard Road. The Light brothers were raised by their father's sister, Abigail, and her husband, Samuel Hawkins. Henry Light later owned the 100-acre farm previously owned by his Uncle Samuel, and the map of 1854 shows a "milk house" at that location. Remnants of his farm can still be seen today in the form of a corbelled stone chamber, a stone-fenced corral or barn foundation, and an old well. Moseman Light owned the farm that was located at the current Gipsy Trail Club administration building site near the corner of Maynard Road and Gipsy Trail Road. This may also have been a portion of the original Samuel Hawkins farm. This site would later be owned by Isaac Smalley, Jr.

Both of these Light brothers married into the Ferris family. The Ferris farm was located along Gipsy Trail Road on the eastern side of the mountain, where the "Pine View Farm" is located today. This property was previously owned by James D. Hyatt. Henry Light married Susan Jane Ferris, and Moseman married her sister, Sarah Maria Ferris. They were the daughters of John and Phoebe Lee Ferris. It is believed that they had a brother, Darius Alonzo Ferris, who married Malinda Light, the sister of Henry, Moseman and Night. Darius Ferris was a fixture on the eastern side of Mt. Nimham throughout the mid to late 1800s. It is believed that the Ferris' lineage included the patriots Ezra Ferris and his father, Colonel Reuben Ferris.

"Night" Light, the great-grandfather of Bettymarie Light Behr, married Sarah Jane Smalley, the daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Brown Smalley. Their farm was located along Whang Hollow Road.

On the lower eastern base of Mt. Nimham, the Brown family owned three farms: just south of Pine Pond were the farms of Aaron Brown (64 acres), his father, the patriot Ebenezer Brown (63 ½ acres), and Aaron's brother, Daniel (50 ¼ acres). Another brother, Stephen Brown, owned property further up the eastern side of the mountain, near the corbelled stone chamber, just above the Stephen Townsend farm site. The mine located south of Mt.

Nimham Court was dubbed "Brown's Quarry" on the maps of the 1800s. The mine just north of Mt. Nimham Court was known as "Brown's Silver Mine Hole."

The Russells owned a farm which encompassed most of Coles Mills Road. Over time, the epicenter of their farm became located about three-quarters of a mile down the old road from the DEC parking area. This farm was originally owned by the patriot Lt. Thomas Russell, the uncle of Morris. This farm was in close proximity to the farms of his brothers, the patriots James and John Russell. In addition, Morris Russell, the son of the patriot James Russell and his wife, Elizabeth Light Russell, can be found there on the maps of 1854 and 1867. Morris was married to Mahala Brown, the granddaughter of the patriot Ebenezer Brown from Gipsy Trail Road. There still exists a partially standing stone structure directly on the road at the old farm site, the stone walkway leading to the old house, and a partially collapsed corbelled stone chamber further north up the road.

Just south of the Russell farm, near what is now the intersection of Coles Mills Road and Route 301, stood the Cole farm and Coles Mills on the West Branch of the Croton River. As previously noted, Rev. Elisha Cole Jr. came from Cape Cod in 1747, settling at the southern base of Mt. Nimham, and built a mill on the outlet of Barrett Pond, which was once known as "Cole's Pond." His sons, Daniel and Elisha III, later built a mill on the West Branch of the Croton River and, as noted by Pelletreau, "*at which a large business for those times was carried on. Connected with the grist mill was a saw and fulling mill, and to the latter, cloth of the good honest homespun of former days was brought from far and near*" (677). This farm, along with the mills, was passed down to subsequent generations of the Cole family until New York City annexed the water supply and purchased their land to build the West Branch Reservoir.

Elisha and his wife, Hannah Smalley Cole, who were married in Massachusetts in 1739, had twelve children, with three of the boys (Ebenezer, Daniel and Nathan) becoming Baptist preachers like their father. They all served at the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Carmel, and are buried in the church cemetery. Daughter Priscilla married Gen. James Townsend, who purchased a 352-acre tract located on the top and northwestern side of the mountain.

Just a little east of Coles Mills stood the Hopkins family farm, house and inn, consisting of 341 acres purchased from the Commissioners of Forfeiture. Captain Solomon Hopkins was a patriot during the Revolution, and was the brother-in-law of "The Spy," Enoch Crosby (Solomon was married to

The residents of Mt. Nimham were deeply involved in the civic affairs of the Town of Kent. Throughout the years, they served as "Path Masters," "Highway Overseers," "Pound Keepers," "Fence Viewers," Supervisor, Constable, Sheriff, and Commissioner of Schools. It was also reported that the patriot James Smalley served as sheriff in the early days following the War of Independence, before the split-off of Putnam from Dutchess County.

The early records of the Town of Frederick/Kent show the names of the following Mt. Nimham area residents serving in various civic positions as follows:

Path Masters: Joseph Cole, Daniel Cole, Milton Dean, Isaiah Hopkins, Philips Smith, Joseph Hopkins, Robert Russell, James Russell, John Wixon, General James Townsend, Solomon Hopkins, Lt. Thomas Russell, Rev. Elisha Cole Jr., Ebenezer Brown, Zachariah Smalley, Joshua Townsend, Lt. Col. Elijah Townsend, Stephen Townsend, John Russell, Henry Light, Stephen Russell, Daniel Brown, Aaron Brown, James Smalley, Isaac Smalley, Morris Russell, Isaac Smalley Jr., Samuel Smalley, Howard Tompkins, and William A. Northrup;

Highway Commissioners: Daniel Cole, Asbury Charles Townsend, Stephen Townsend;

Assessors: Daniel Cole, William A. Northrup;

Fence Viewers: Solomon Hopkins;

Constables: Solomon Hopkins, John Wixon;

Pound Keepers: Solomon Hopkins;

Justices: Stephen Townsend, Coleman Townsend.

The recorded lists of the Road Masters and Path Masters often included notations indicating that a man would be allocated "a day's wages" to be attributed to his tax obligation.

Local residents were also charged a "dog tax," which was entered into a general fund to compensate farmers for the loss of livestock due to dog attacks. This amounted to approximately \$.50 per year.

"Fence Viewers" performed a very necessary service in ensuring that the farmers' fences were sound and met a required height, usually about four and

one-half feet high, to prevent their animals from wandering into their neighbors' fields and wreaking havoc with crops and other animals. Since most of the fences we see today do not meet this height requirement, the farmers would have used wooden logs and poles to supplement the height of the stone fences.

Some local residents were also involved in the mining of minerals and building materials in the area. General James Townsend, one of the original owners on Mt. Nimham following the confiscation of the loyalist property in Lot No. 5, mined the mountain and later was involved in the Tilly Foster Mine, starting around 1810. He owned a forge, for smelting iron ore, which was located at the northwestern corner of what is now Boyd's Reservoir, along the inlet of the West Branch of the Croton River (Flato, 69-70). Evidence of the Townsend family's mining activities on the mountain still abound.

Brown's Quarry, located on the lower eastern face of Mt. Nimham, just south of Mt. Nimham Court, was a great source of quality serpentine rock (see Illustration 7). Owned by the Brown family (Ebenezer, Aaron, Stephen, and Daniel), it yielded large blocks of high quality ornamental marble that were excavated from this site. As described by William Blake in his "History of Putnam County," published in 1849:

"Another locality, one that has already attracted much notice, is Brown's quarry, near Pine Pond in this county, four or five miles from Carmel village, and one and one quarter miles north northwest of the county poor house. It (the serpentine) is dark colored, dark green to black, and from compact to a coarse crystalline, like coarse-grained hornblende rock. It is granularly foliated, like common white marble, polishes well, and is perfectly black when polished. It may be obtained in large blocks for sawing into slabs. Large slabs lie on the surface in Brown's lot, and the rock is seen in place all around the hill. In the mine lot adjacent, good blocks may probably be obtained by quarrying. Twenty-five to thirty acres of ground are underlaid by this rock on the hillside, west of the brook, which is the outlet of Pine Pond. It is easily accessible, and about one hundred feet above the water level of the adjacent valley. Blocks of many tons' weight can be easily procured; in fact, many of this size are now lying on the surface, and require no blasting or splitting before they are put in the saw-mill. Magnetic oxide of iron, or chromate of iron, is disseminated through the serpentine in some parts of the serpentine bed; and this variety of the rock will not be suitable to work, as it can neither be sawed nor polished easily. The quarry seems to be sufficient to supply the market, not only of our own country, but the world, with this kind of ornamental marble, for a long time. It is really a beautiful

material when polished, and it is hoped that it will be extensively used. I have seen no other locality where such a material can be obtained in so large blocks, sound and free from seams and cracks. A marble of this kind was used in ancient times, in some of the old Spanish palaces, but it is exceedingly rare in Europe” (35-36).

Another mine, primarily used to excavate arsenic, is located just north of the Brown’s Quarry site. On the 1854 R.F. O’Connor Map, it is labeled as the “Silver Mine Hole.” The ore that looked like silver, and which attracted many speculators and stockholders, was largely arsenic. Arsenical ore was used in the manufacture of shot, flint, glass and medicinal preparations. However, the only refinery where arsenic could be liberated successfully was located in England. So, over time, the mine fell into disuse and disrepair (Blake; 1854 O’Connor Map of Kent).

The less fortunate inhabitants of this area were supported by the County Alms House and Farm, located on Gipsy Trail Road where the Putnam County Veteran’s Park stands today. Some of the residents were buried in the small cemetery located next to Gipsy Trail Road. A few of the local residents



Illustration 7: Portion of “Brown’s Quarry” (Photo by author)

from the Mt. Nimham area served as “Overseer of the Poor,” including Isaac Brown (1843) and Isaac Parker (1885).

To the south of the County Farm, on the road to Carmel at the corner of Nichols Street, was the house of the William Durrell Northrup family for many years in the late 1800s. Known as “Durrell,” Mr. Northrup was an attorney practicing in Carmel. According to Pelletreau, on this property was the house that was reported to be the birthplace of Daniel Drew, whose father, Gilbert Drew, owned it. Upon further examination, it appears that the house was actually located in what is now “Reservoir D”, on the southeastern end of the Nichols Street causeway that spans across the reservoir. Daniel Drew was credited for creating the phrase “water stock,” which was a very popular term in olden days to describe the enhancement of the weight of farm stock for sale by feeding them salt and having them drink an excessive amount of water to artificially increase their weight at the time of sale. After Gilbert Drew passed away, Gen. James Townsend owned this homestead for a time in the early 1800s (690). Daniel Drew later founded the brokerage firm of Drew, Robinson & Company in 1844, and also helped establish the Drew Methodist Church and the Drew Seminary, both in Carmel.

The farmers on Mt. Nimham were able to enjoy the stunning views of the countryside that the mountain afforded them. They could watch the shadow of the mountain extend over the western side as the sun rose, and later across the eastern valley as the sun set. As we enjoy these same magnificent views today, we can only imagine all the hopes, dreams, joys and heartaches of these early inhabitants of the mountain that accompanied the great natural beauty that abounds.

- buckwheat was grown on 379 acres;
- turnips were grown on 16 acres;
- 146 acres of potatoes;
- 2,567 head of cattle;
- 1,264 cows milked;
- 133,516 lbs of butter produced;
- 1,704 lbs of cheese produced;
- 260 horses;
- 2,181 sheep;
- 3,710 lbs of wool produced;
- 1,967 hogs;
- 5 gristmills;
- 6 sawmills;
- 2 fulling mills;
- 2 carding machines;
- 2 tanneries;
- 3 Baptist churches;
- 10 common schools;
- 2 inns/taverns;
- 6 retail stores;
- 143 farmers;
- 7 merchants;
- Total population of 1,729.

1846: The following residents of the Mt. Nimham area served their country during the Mexican War:

- Isaac Smalley, from the northwestern base of Mt. Nimham near the corner of Smalley Corners and Maynard/Beach Roads;
- Zachariah Smalley, Isaac Smalley's cousin from the western side of Mt. Nimham;
- Ansel Cole, the son of Joshua Cole and the grandson of the patriot Elisha Cole III, from Coles Mills.

1848: The Hudson River Mining Company operated the mine located about one-half mile southwest of Pine Pond, on the lower eastern face of Mt. Nimham, labeled on town maps as "Brown's Quarry." The ore was taken to the forge formerly owned by Gen. James Townsend, which was located at the northern end of what is now Boyd's Reservoir, on the inlet of the west branch of the Croton River. There, the ore was smelted, and evidence of its existence in the form of tailings and slag may still be found along the banks of the river and on Route 301 in Kent Cliffs. James Townsend was later

involved in the extraction and refinement of ores from the Tilly Foster Mine in the years before his death (Flato, 69).

It was also reported during these times that silver was taken from the mine on Smalley Hill known as the "Silver Mine Hole." The 1854 map of Putnam County shows the location of this mine on the eastern face of the mountain, north of Mt. Nimham Court. As reported by Pelletreau below, there was some doubt as to whether the silvery-looking substance found in these mines was actually silver. It is now known that the "silver" was actually arsenical ore. However, the mine proved to be unproductive and was eventually closed. But over time, stories grew and took on a life of their own in the area about silver mines, sparking a great deal of interest and speculation. Many invested as stockholders, inevitably losing their original investments. Later, around the turn of the century, a local mining engineer aroused renewed interest with his analysis showing an abundance of large veins of arsenical iron pyrites. This ore could be used for the extraction of arsenic, which was used in pharmaceuticals, poisons and chemicals. The D.S. Chemical Company re-opened the mine, but the condition of the mine proved to make this a very difficult enterprise. In addition, while the ore was sent to Mamaroneck for smelting, the operation there was not sufficient to successfully extract a refined product. The nearest smelting forge capable of rendering a useful end-product was located in England. Thus, it became impractical to continue the operation, and the mine was finally closed again sometime in the 1917-1918 period (Flato, 70).

In describing the "silver mine," Pelletreau reported: *"The shaft is about forty feet deep, and yellow pulverulent sulphuret of arsenic covers the shaft, resulting from the decomposition of the arsenical sulphuret of iron, of which there is evidently a large quantity. The idea that silver exists here is received with doubt"* (703).

1849: Benjamin B. Hopkins, the grandson of the patriot Jeremiah Hopkins, and great-grandson of the patriot Captain Solomon Hopkins, served as the Supervisor of the Town of Kent in this year.

1851: Coleman S. Townsend was born on December 7th, 1851, to Stephen and Mary "Polly" Smalley Townsend of Mt. Nimham. Coleman would later marry Rachel Curry, and they had 3 children: Stephen, Coleman S., and Hamilton Fish Townsend. Coleman Sr. was Justice of the Peace for the Town of Kent for 16 years, and became known as "Judge Townsend." He was also a farmer on Mt. Nimham nearly his entire life, on the family farm appropriately named as the "Fairview Farm." His sons Coleman S., Stephen and Hamilton would carry on the family farming tradition on the old

homestead. Stephen would eventually live on what is now called Clear Pool Road. He was a miner and stone mason, and two of his sons carried on in that trade. The Townsends constructed the explosives bunker found near the DEC parking area on Mt. Nimham to store the munitions needed to dislodge the desired materials used in their trade.

In this year, a fire at Coles Mills, then owned by Daniel H. Cole, the son of the patriot Deacon Daniel Cole, destroyed the woodhouse, and a storehouse, causing damage totaling approximately \$800 (Putnam County Courier).

1852: James C. Smalley, the son of Zachariah and Priscilla Odell Smalley, and grandson of the patriot Zachariah Smalley, was ordained to preach at the First Baptist Church of Kent in this year, then located near Boyd's Corners. He continued to preach until he resigned in 1869 (Pelletreau, 680).

Stephen Brown, the son of Ebenezer Brown and the owner of a farm south of Pine Pond extending to the eastern side of Mt. Nimham, died at the age of 73 on April 20th and is buried in the Kent Cliffs Baptist Church Cemetery. Included in his property holdings was "Brown's Quarry," located on the lower eastern side of Mt. Nimham. His heirs, including his sister Mahala Brown Russell (the wife of Morris Russell), and his son Stephen, took ownership of his property following his passing.

1853: Coleman R. Shear was born in January of 1853, the son of Daniel B. and Martha A. Shear. Around 1883, he married Ellen E. Smalley, the daughter of Isaac and Esther Smalley. They lived on the western access road leading up to Mt. Nimham, which was then known as "Shear's Road." This road would later become known as "Cole Shear's Road," and is now called "Cole Shears Court."

1854: Stephen Brown, the son of Stephen and grandson of the patriot Ebenezer Brown, passed away on April 23rd, and is buried in the First Baptist Church of Kent Cliffs Cemetery. He owned the farm just up the hill from the Stephen Townsend farm, where a stone chamber still stands today, along with the stone fences outlining the approach to his house. He was just 32 years of age.

The R.F. O'Connor Map of Putnam County (see Illustration 8), published in this year, showed three farms owned by the Smalleys (Mrs. Smalley, Isaac, and Zachariah), along with the Stephen Townsend, the Stephen Brown estate, and Morris Russell family farms on Mt. Nimham, which was then known as "Smalley Hill." Sandwiched between the Smalley farms, on Cole Shear's Road, was the farm of John Wixon (the son of Peleg Wixon). At the

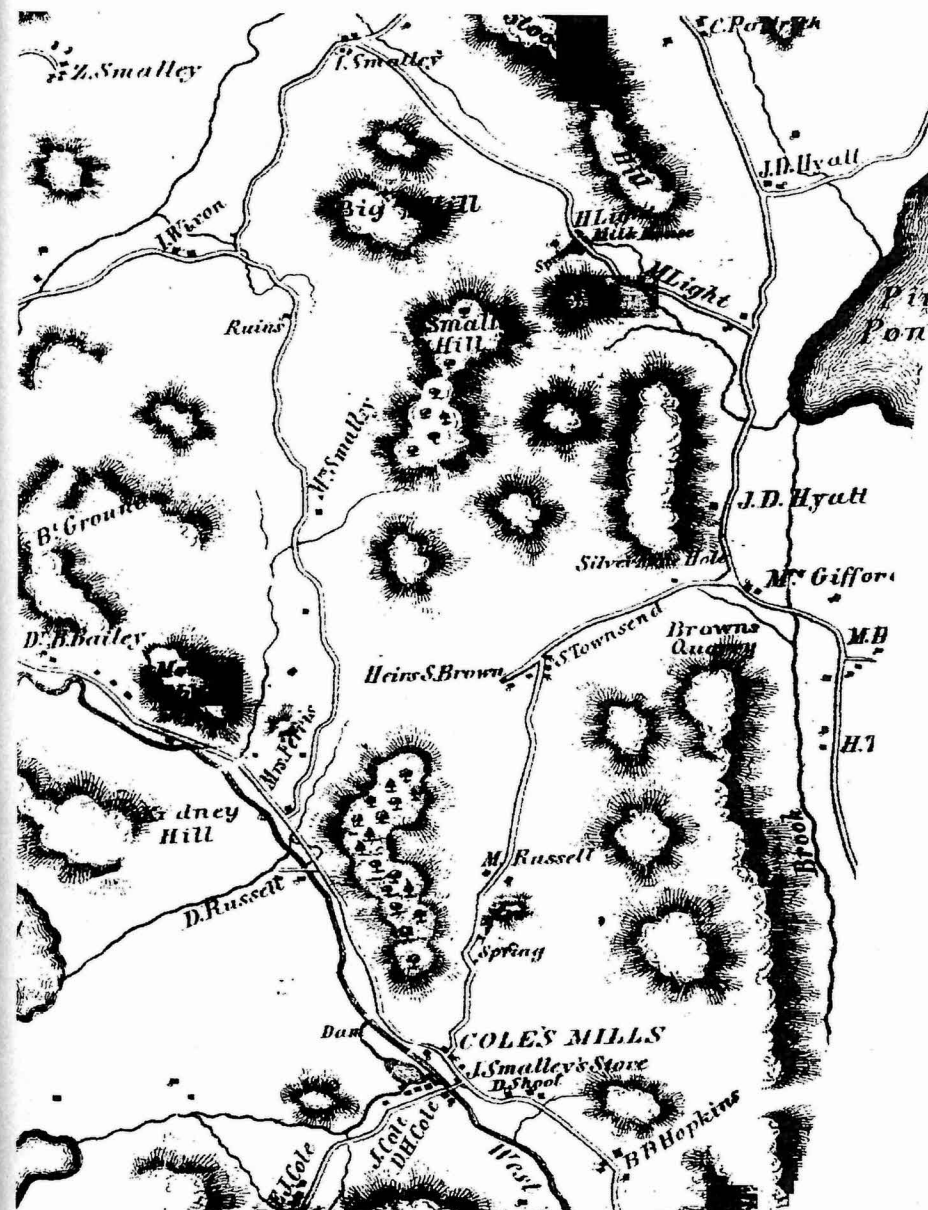


Illustration 8: Mt. Nimham Area Excerpt of the 1854 R.F. O'Connor Map of Kent (Courtesy of the Putnam County Historian's Office)

bottom of Cole Shears Road was found the farm of Joshua Smalley, the son of Zachariah II, and the brother of Rev. James C. and Nathan C. Smalley.

The widow Smalley, located on what is now called Clearpool Road, had been married to Samuel Smalley. They lived on the western side of the

1897: Milton Niles Dean, a longtime farmer on the southeastern side of Mt. Nimham, and the father of Civil War casualties John Haviland Dean and William Niles Dean, passed away at the age of 82. He was survived by his sons William and Colonel, and daughter Nancy. Dean was laid to rest in the Raymond Hill Cemetery alongside his wife, Phebe Jane Haviland Dean, and son, Civil War casualty John Haviland Dean.

1898: Eli Kelley Cole, the great-great-grandson of the patriot Captain Elisha Cole Jr. from the War of Independence, served in the Regular Army and participated in the Spanish American War.

1899: On March 2nd, Howard Tompkins passed away at the age of 71. He was a long-time farmer and resident of the lower eastern side of Mt. Nimham, south of Pine Pond, and adjacent to the Northrup farm. He was laid to rest in the First Baptist Church of Kent Cliffs Cemetery.

Late 1800s: A wooden watch tower was built by the Smalley family on the very top of "Smalley Hill." It was called "Zachariah's Lookout," named after Zachariah Smalley (Kathleen Kane, Interview with Ken and Ella Townsend, 2000). This moniker, and a variation of it known as "Zachary's Lookout," was sometimes applied to the mountain as a whole as a colloquial description by the local residents during this time period.

Late 1800's - Early 1900's: Agriculture and farming began to decline, and lost its place as the major industry of the area around 1930. Milk production, which peaked around 1900, declined significantly after the closing of the Elgin Gilt-edged Butter and Cheese Factory at Farmers Mills in 1907, followed by the closing of the Borden Factory in Brewster in 1917. Also, with New York City obtaining and flooding some of the best farmland in the town near Boyd's Corners and Coles Mills, farm output had significantly dropped as a result. The remaining farmers in this area increasingly turned to fruit and poultry farming.

With the building of the reservoirs by New York City, Coles Mills effectively disappeared under the newly constructed West Branch Reservoir. New York City had widened the West Branch of the Croton River channel, where the mills had been located, to expand the water storage capacity. With the diversion of the water supplies in this area, New York City effectively closed the remaining mills, thus furthering the decline of agriculture in this area. Since agriculture had been the dominant industry, the population fell drastically and precipitously reduced property values throughout the area.

Chapter 6

Mount Nimham in the 20th Century

Having preserved the Union with their blood and supreme sacrifice, the residents of the Mount Nimham area would continue to face great changes and challenges. New York City's annexation and diversion of the local water supplies in the late 1800s had dealt a death blow to the mills, and helped to fuel the further decline in agriculture within this area. But this decline would also help to stimulate the transformation from an agrarian economy to one based on recognizing and capitalizing upon the great natural beauty of the region. The residents of Mount Nimham would also face the scourges of two world wars as the United States took its place as the leader of the free world, and the arsenal of democracy . . .

1900: It was around this time that the "Silver Mine Hole", located near Brown's Quarry on the lower, eastern side of Mt. Nimham, was re-opened by the D. S. Chemical Company. The renewed interest in this mine was sparked by a local mining engineer who determined there was an abundance of arsenical iron pyrites to be found at this location. However, the only smelting forge capable of turning out a truly refined product was located in England, so the mine was eventually closed for good around 1917-1918 (Flato, 70).

The 1900 Federal Census documented the following farms and families on and around Mt. Nimham:

- William Niles Dean, farmer, along with his sister, Nancy L.;
- Coleman Shear, farmer, along with his wife Ellen, and her mother, Elizabeth Smalley, and a boarder named Elvin Mead;
- Isaac W. Parker, farmer, his wife Isabel, and their daughter Eva B.;
- Ulysses Northrup, farmer, his wife Eliza C., and his sister Carrie E.;
- Coleman S. Townsend ("Judge Townsend"), farmer, his wife Rachel, and their sons Coleman S., Hamilton F., and Stephen;
- Daniel H. Cole, farmer, his wife Lottie S., and 'servant' Lewis E. Barrett;
- Joseph Light, stone mason, his wife Phebe, their son George, and daughter Annie;
- Harrison Ferris, farm laborer, his wife Charlena, their daughters Bertha and Anna B., and sons William and George.

1901: The Clearpool Education Center, located on the western slope of Mt. Nimham, was founded in this year as a summer camp. The purpose of the

alongside his parents and brother, John Haviland Dean, who died from measles during the Civil War in January of 1862. He was survived by his sister and younger brother, Colonel Fremont Dean, who continued to live and work on the Mt. Nimham farm.

1915: Coleman S. Townsend, the son of Stephen and Mary Polly Smalley Townsend, and known popularly as "Judge Townsend" for his many years of service as Justice of the Peace, died at the age of 64. He was laid to rest in the First Baptist Church of Kent Cliffs Burial Ground. A longtime farmer on Mt. Nimham, where the DEC parking area is located today, his obituary recalled that *"the farm on which he lived is without doubt the most sightly in Putnam County, as a most unusual view can be had from it many miles in all directions"* (Putnam County Courier).

1916-1918: The following individuals associated with Mt. Nimham served their country during the First World War:

- Eli Kelley Cole, the great-great grandson of the patriot Captain Elisha Cole, Jr. and a veteran of the Spanish American War, served in the Regular Army and participated in the First World War. He eventually reached the rank of Major General;
- George Tillot Cole, the son of George R. and Mary Ganun Cole, and the great-great-grandson of the patriot Deacon Daniel Cole, also served during the war in the U.S. Navy;
- Thomas Manning Townsend, the son of Byron and Elnora Barrett Townsend, and the great-great-great grandson of the patriot Lt. Col. Elijah Townsend, served as a private in the U.S. Army;
- Robert Stanton Feeley, who served as a sergeant in the 311th Infantry, and later made his home on the Pine View Farm on Gipsy Trail Road at the eastern base of the mountain.

1917-1918: The "Silver Mine Hole", located on the lower eastern side of Mt. Nimham and rich in arsenical ore, was finally closed by the D.S. Chemical Company when it was deemed that there was no nearby smelting forge capable of turning out a satisfactory end product (Flato, 70). Stephen Townsend, the descendant of the original owner of the Fairview Farm located just up the mountain, was reportedly the manager of the mine during this period of time. The mine included two steam engines, one to bring buckets filled with rock out of the mine, and the other to crush the rock. A blacksmith shop was also on site to keep the drills sharpened (Whipple and White, 144).

1918: On November 6th, 1918, George Tillot Cole passed away in a Navy

hospital on Gibraltar. He was 23 years old. The cause of death was pneumonia. He was the son of George Richardson and Mary Ganung Cole, and was the great-great grandson of the patriot Deacon Daniel Cole.

1920: The Federal Census lists the following families and farms on and around Mt. Nimham:

"Shears Road":

- Hamilton F. Townsend (age 44), farmer and enumerator of the census;
- Hamilton A. Smalley (78), farmer, his wife Adaline (68), and their daughter Rita Tilford (41);
- George L. Marsh (55), apartment house superintendent, his wife Elizabeth (51), and their son Edgar L. (14);
- Coleman R. Shear (66), farmer, his wife Ellen (66), cousin Parmer Sprague (50), Catherine Townsend (74), and servant Hashagen Rudolph, Jr. (26);
- Edwin D. Brown (43), farmer, his wife Ethel (29), their son Charles E. (10), and daughter Catherine C. (6);

"County Farm Highway":

- Silas L. Russell (55), farmer;
- Edward Ferris (47), laborer, highway department;
- Charles Cartwright (58), laborer, arsenic mine;
- Ulysses Northrup (55), dairy farmer;

"County Poor Farm":

- Russell B. Wixson (60), overseer, and his sister Cynthia (50);

"Smokey Hollow Road":

- Briggs Tompkins (37), laborer, his wife Bertha (35), and daughters Edna M. (7), Minna M. (5), Cassie G. (3), and Blanche B. (1);
- Stephen Townsend (40), farmer, his wife Anna A. (40), sons Clarence J. (18) and Stephen K. (Ken) (13), and daughters Velma A. (10), Grace E. (3), and Dortha L. (10 months);
- Byron E. Townsend (58), laborer, his mother Emaline B. (88), sons Dewit B. (23) and Thomas M. (21), and daughter Zillah L. (19);
- Asbury C. Townsend (60), retired, and his wife Catherine (60);

“Kent Cliffs”:

- Daniel H. Cole (51), laborer, his wife Lottie S. (46), son Paul (13) and mother-in-law Matilda Foshay (77);
- Albert G. Cole (55), farmer, his wife Euphemia A. (54), daughter Mildred (12), and boarder Ralph Hewitt (25);

“Kent Cliffs Highway”:

- Coleman S. Townsend (45), NYC Watershed Inspector, his wife Flora M. (42), and mother-in-law Sarah J. Williams (84).

As of 1920, Colonel Fremont Dean was no longer listed in the Kent census. However, he was found in the Brooklyn census, along with his wife, Margaret, and son Walter, age 31. Enumerated on January 14th, Colonel was listed as “retired,” while Walter’s occupation was listed as “accountant”. Colonel’s wife, Margaret Sarah Clark Dean, was originally from the Long Island City area.

Edwin D. Brown from “Shear’s Road” was the great-great grandson of the patriot Ebenezer Brown, who was originally from Gipsy Trail Road across from the mountain.

Early 1920s: According to the late Ken Townsend, the great-grandson of Stephen and Polly Smalley Townsend of the Fairview Farm on Mt. Nimham, he, his father and brother Clarence built a wooden fire tower out of chestnut poles, approximately 60 feet high, to replace the tower previously built by the Smalleys on the top of Mt. Nimham. The original tower built by the Smalleys had been dubbed “Zachariah’s Lookout” in honor of Zachariah Smalley (Katherine Kane, Interview with Ken and Ella Townsend). Some local residents came to use this term to describe the mountain itself.

Ken Townsend also recounted that one of the few remaining descendents of the Wappinger, a man known as “Indian Hen Barrett,” was an occasional visitor to Mt. Nimham and the remaining Nochpeem forts located on the mountain. According to Townsend, Barrett lived near Long Pond in Carmel, and would drive up the mountain in a horse and wagon, staying for several days at a time (Kane). He reportedly passed away there during one visit.

According to local residents, the mountain, with its rugged terrain and multiple springs and other water sources, became an ideal location for the production of alcohol during Prohibition. Reportedly, there were several stills set up near these springs.

The Town of Kent Highway Department placed a rock crusher on the level land on the corner of Gipsy Trail Road and Mt. Nimham Court, where the first house on the road is located today. They would transport large rocks and boulders from the mountain, crush them, and use the crushed stone for use in building and maintaining the roads in the town. The rock crusher was powered by a World War I - era tank tractor, with bullet holes and all. The foreman in charge of the crusher was Ralph Merritt’s father.

1925: The New York State Census listed the following residents of “Coles Mills Hill Road”:

- Walter J. Heady
- Briggs D. Tompkins
- Najarro Menendy (Menendez)

“Clear Pond Camp Road”:

- Stephen Townsend

1926: William D. Light, a Civil War veteran who grew up living along the northeastern side of the mountain, passed away on January 5th at the age of 83. He was the son of Moseman B. and Sarah Maria Ferris Light, and served in the 6th Heavy Artillery Regiment, Company G, during the war. He eventually owned a dairy farm on Fair Street in Carmel, which was later sold to Borden’s Condensery. He had married Mary Jane Russell on December 24, 1866, who survived him. Light was interred in Raymond Hill Cemetery.

1928: The U.S. Geological Survey map of this area (see Illustration 15), produced by the Department of the Interior, continued to show the farm sites previously owned by the Townsend, Russell, Tompkins, Ferris, Smalley, Parker, and Northrup families. It also measured the elevation at the true peak of the mountain as 1,426 feet, consistent with the 1894 USGS map. However, current USGS data suggests the elevation at this point is 1,276 feet above sea level.

New York State formed the “State Reforestation Commission” in 1928 to study the impact of farm abandonment and clear-cutting of the remaining private forestland in the State. This grew out of concern that private land was being reforested at a very slow rate, as compared to the reforestation rate of public lands.

Colonel Fremont Dean, the younger brother of William Niles Dean, died in this year at the age of 72. Colonel Dean had continued on the farm on Mt.

bunker adjacent to the farm. On the hill above the bunker there was a chicken coop used by the tenants, and previously used by the Townsend family.

On the farm previously owned by James D. Hyatt and later by Darius Ferris on the eastern side of the mountain, the artist Robert Stanton Feeley established "Pine View Farm." The property included the circa 1788 house that sits on the mountainside overlooking the farm. The farmhouse on the eastern side of Gipsy Trail Road was built by Paul Nault. Feeley used the red barn as his studio. He was the creative director of Avon Products and president of Robert S. Feeley Associates, a New York advertising agency (Whipple and White, 140-143).

1930: The Federal Census listed the following families and farms on and around Mt. Nimham:

"Coles Mills - Kent Cliffs Road":

- Briggs Tompkins (47), laborer, his wife Bertha M. (35), their daughters Edna M. (17), Minnie M. (15), Cassie C. (14), and Blanche B. (11), and their sons Charles B. (9), Briggs Jr. (7), Melvin G. (6) and Dan B. (2);
- Nazario Menendez (61), farmer, his wife Fannie R. (65), sister-in-law Eliza Smith (74), and boarder Bertha Gable (7);
- Harry S. Davis (28), laborer, his wife Grace E. (28), and their daughter Mary Etta (1);
- Carl N. Baker (28), mechanic, his wife Lena M. (31), stepdaughter Dorothy Post (9), and daughter Carol I. (2);
- Ernest R. Scott (29), laborer, and his wife Elizabeth M. (32);
- Walter J. Heady (59), farmer, his wife Sarah E. (64), and their grandson Frances (14);
- Stephen Townsend (51), carpenter, his wife Anna A. (51), and their sons Clarence J. (28), S. Kenneth (23), and daughters Velma (20), Grace E. (14), and Dorothy L. (11);

"Gipsy Trail Road":

- Edwin L. Ferris (52), laborer;
- Thomas Barrett (74), laborer, and his brother Harmon (65);
- William D. Robinson (55), farmer, his wife Anna E. (48), and boarder Hamilton Townsend (55), who was listed as "Superintendent - Public Works";
- Ulysses Northrup (64), farmer, and his sister Carrie E. (58);
- Milton I. Ross (31), contractor/builder, his wife Mildred C. (29), their

son Elmer E. (4), and their daughters Jean E. (3) and Dorothy I. (1);

- Antonio Bellenger (27), laborer, his wife Angeline M. (24), and their son Robert A. (3);
- John Burnley (64), tobacco stripper.

"County Farm":

- Eliza W. Dean (45), Public Works Commissioner/County Home, her husband (name illegible) (56), daughter Nina D. (12), and servant Edith Bennett (50).

1933: A 1933 aerial photograph of the Mt. Nimham area (Illustration 16) shows Pine Pond in the upper right side of the photo. The Fairview Farm can be found diagonally down to the left of the southwestern tip of Pine Pond in the lower one-third area of the photo, off of Mt. Nimham Court, and east of Clearpool. The old Isaac Smalley farm can be seen in the upper left corner of the photo.

1938: The New York State Reforestation Act was expanded in 1938 to include properties outside of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. It was during this time period that portions of Mt. Nimham began to be acquired by the State under this program. Part of the purchase eventually included the Northrup farm on the eastern side of Gipsy Trail Road, across from the mountain. The old Northrup tenant house was eventually used as the NYS DEC Forest Ranger's headquarters, continuing to this day.

1940: Numerous devastating fires, destroying millions of acres of forestland in New York, spurred the creation of fire districts in the early 1900s. Fire towers were erected on mountains within these districts from which spotters could quickly locate potentially dangerous fires caused by sparking locomotives, lightning strikes, careless hunters, or residents burning brush. The CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps), a public works program created during the Depression, was assigned the job of building an improved roadway up to the very top of Mt. Nimham. The fire tower, a 90-foot steel Aermotor tower with a 7' by 7' metal cabin at the top, was put in place by New York State and the CCC, with seasonal fire-watchers assigned to report on any observable fires over the vast countryside visible from the top of Mt. Nimham. Dick Ketchum, who grew up in the Ludingtonville and White Pond areas, was the first fire warden assigned to the tower. A log cabin on top of the mountain, near the fire tower, was used to house the fire watchers. In its first year of operation in 1941, 73 fires and 266 visitors were logged. Mr. Ketchum also served as a local gunsmith, as well as a tattoo artist.



Illustration 16: 1933 Aerial Photo of the Mt. Nimham Area, with Pine Pond shown in the upper right (*Courtesy of the Putnam County Historian's Office*)

During construction of the roadway to the top of the mountain, the CCC, under the guidance of New York State, encountered the remains of the Nochpeem forts that were still standing, nearly 200 years after the Nochpeem and the rest of the Wappinger tribes were removed from their ancestral homeland, and well over 200 years from their original construction. Built with a foundation base of about four feet of stone with another four feet of logs on top, these invaluable artifacts were bulldozed into piles of rubble (Interview with Ken and Ella Townsend, 2000, conducted by Katherine Kane). This blatant disregard for preserving invaluable historic artifacts has

led many to criticize the State's stewardship of the mountain over the years.

1941-1945: Following are some of the residents of the Mt. Nimham area who served our country during World War II:

- Stephen Wood ("Woody") Cornell;
- Stephen Kenneth ("Ken") Townsend;
- Ward Cole, the son of Charles P. and Estella Cole;
- Andrew Heady (who was married to Stephen Townsend's daughter, Grace Elizabeth) served as a private in the U.S. Army;
- Percy Adams, Jr.;
- George C. Whipple, Jr.;
- Elmer E. Ross;
- Briggs Tompkins;
- Charles A. Tompkins;
- Leon B. Tompkins, who served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army;
- Melvin G. Tompkins

1943: Two Townsend brothers who grew up on the mountain were elected to public office in the Town of Kent in 1943. Coleman S. Townsend was elected Town Assessor, while his brother, Hamilton Fish Townsend, was elected Superintendent of Highways. Both ran on the Democratic line, while Hamilton also gained the Republican endorsement as well.

1944: The U.S. Geological Survey Map, produced by the Interior Department in 1944, still showed the moniker of "Smalley Mountain" on its map of this area, even though the name had been changed in the late 1800s (see Illustration 17). It also listed an elevation of 1,244 feet at what was known as "Big Hill" on the maps of the 1800s, which is actually the northern-most high ridge on Mt. Nimham. The USGS maps published in 1894 and 1928 pinpointed the true peak of the mountain, and labeled it as being 1,426 feet above sea level. However, the current data sheet from the USGS indicates an elevation of 1,276 feet at this point, which is now being tested thanks to the availability of hand-held GPS devices. This significant discrepancy of 150 feet has never been adequately explained by the USGS.

To the west of the mountain, a new lake appeared on the map: the man-made Clear Pool Lake. And to the north of Clear Pool, another man-made lake, which was part of Camp Albert B. Hines, also appeared for the first time. Camp Hines was affiliated with the Clearpool Camp, but was specifically dedicated to serving teen-age boys from New York City in order to give them an alternative to joining destructive gangs. Remnants of the camp's infrastructure, some of which was built by the campers themselves,

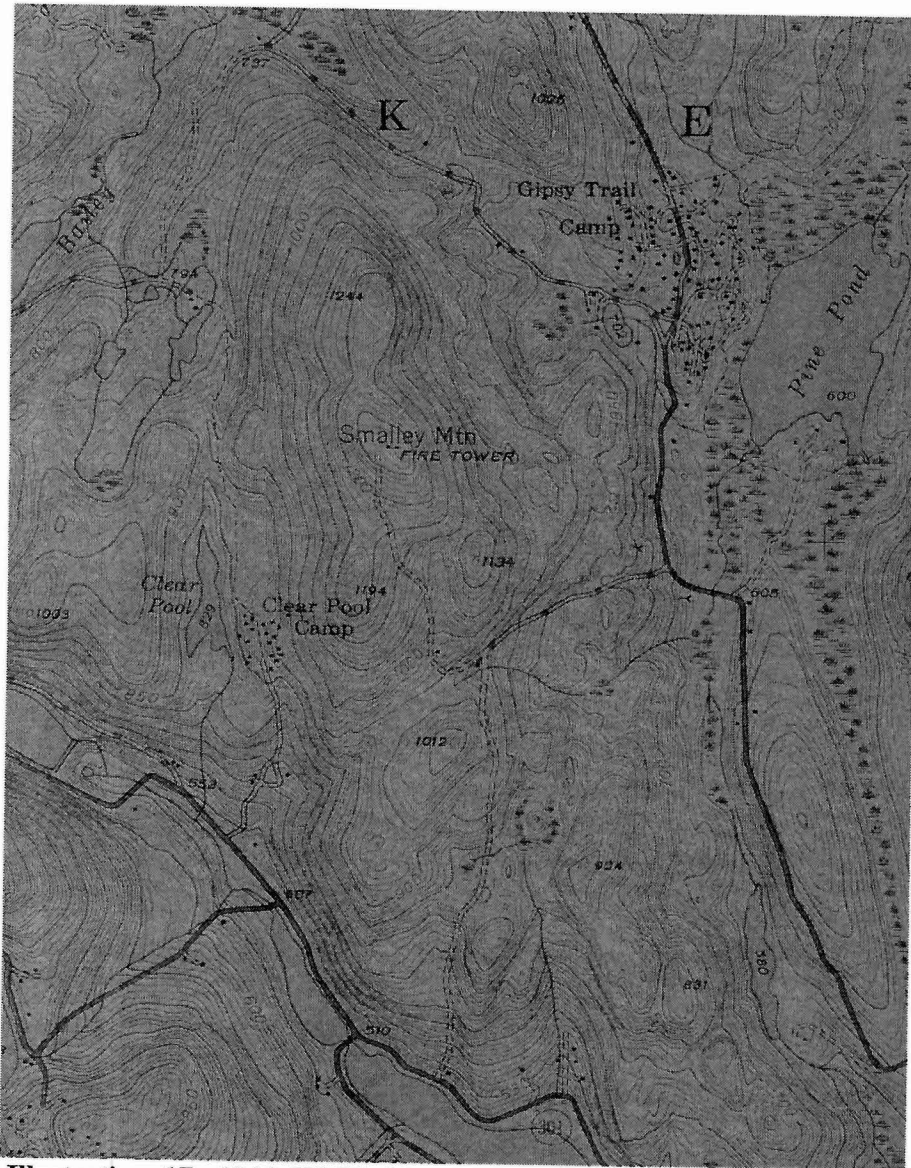


Illustration 17: 1944 USGS Map Excerpt of the Mt. Nimham Area
(Courtesy of the U.S. Interior Department)

can still be found within the encroaching forest.

The former residence of William Niles Dean was also shown further up the access road leading to the top of the mountain. Today, one can see the steps that led up to the house, which had a magnificent view of Whang Hollow and its eastern border, including Townsend Ridge, Barrett Hill, Beaver Hill, and

Hemlock Ledge (see Illustration 25).

1948: Hamilton Fish Townsend, the son of Judge Coleman S. Townsend and the great-great grandson of the patriot Lt. Col. Elijah Townsend, passed away on August 24th. He was 72 years old, and was laid to rest in the First Baptist Church of Kent Cliffs Cemetery, which had been relocated from Boyd's Reservoir to the hillside above the reservoir. Hamilton Fish Townsend had carried on as a farmer on his family's "Fairview Farm" on Mt. Nimham following his father's death, and had also served as a census enumerator and Highway Superintendent. In his later years he lived on Gipsy Trail Road across from the Pine View Farm.

1950s: A small ski slope was built on the eastern face of Mt. Nimham by Stephen Wood ("Woody") Cornell, owner of the Carmel Lumber Yard and a World War II veteran. Located just north of Mt. Nimham Court, the small slope was serviced by a J-bar and was illuminated for nighttime skiing. The remains of the equipment shed, which housed the power equipment for the tow-bar and lights, are still visible from Gipsy Trail Road (see Illustration 18). Mr. Cornell built a beautiful A-frame chalet nearby for his family's use and easy access to the slope (Rickert-Shatz Family; Ralph Merritt).

Woody Cornell also acknowledged, and celebrated, the existence of the arsenic mine that was once located on his property, which was originally known as "Brown's Silver Mine Hole." He helped create a logo for the signage of the mine, and for his own personal stationery (see Illustration 19). The mine was about 90-feet deep, and was filled with water by this time. Woody Cornell would scuba dive in the frigid water, before hiring local resident Ralph Merritt to fill it in due to safety concerns. It took five days of earth moving and filling to finally complete the job, as Mr. Merritt worked precariously close to the edge of the mine.

In an ironic twist, Mr. Cornell was a direct descendant of Captain John Underhill, the English mercenary hired by Governor Kieft in 1643 to exterminate the local Native population. Underhill's infamous place in history was sealed with the massacre of 500 to 700 Native men, women and children in 1644 in the Pound Ridge area. Underhill had taken advantage of a large gathering of the Native people assembled for a corn festival, choosing that moment to strike with devastating consequences.

It is reported that Judge Samuel I. Rosenman, counselor to Governor, and later President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, owned a home on Cole Shears Road on the western end of Mt. Nimham during this period. He also served as a counselor to President Harry Truman, who reportedly visited him there

during his presidency.

Around the mid-1950s, the need for fire watchers atop the tower was replaced by aerial observation. So New York State removed the lower section of the stairs leading to the cabin. The log cabin used by the fire watchers eventually fell into disrepair.

Willis Booth and his family were the last tenants in the old Townsend house on the Fairview Farm. By the mid-1950s the house was no longer habitable (Merritt).

1950-1953: Gerald Kirby Smalley, the great-grandson of Samuel and Mary Smalley from the western side of Mt. Nimham, near what is now the Clearpool Education Center, served as a corporal in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.



Illustration 18: Woody Cornell's Ski Slope Equipment Shed (Photo by author)

1952: On January 2nd, George C. Whipple Jr. married JoeAnn Feeley at Our Lady of the Lake Roman Catholic Church in Lake Carmel. The newlyweds celebrated their wedding reception at the Gipsy Trail Club. They would make their home at the Pine View Farm on Gipsy Trail Road along the eastern base of the mountain. The Whipple family traces their lineage back to

Captain John Whipple, who served under Commodore Abraham Whipple, another relative, and the hero of the Battle of Narragansett Bay, in which the first British ship of the American Revolution was sunk. He is most famous for responding to the wanted poster issued by Captain James Wallace, who campaigned, "You Abraham Whipple on the 10th of June 1772 burned his majesty's vessel the Gaspee and I will hang you at the yard arm!" To which Whipple responded, "Sir, always catch a man before you hang him" (PreservePutnam.org).

George C. Whipple Jr. was a public relations executive at Benton and Bowles, the advertising agency that created the famous "Don't squeeze the Charmin" advertising campaign. Mr. Whipple licensed his name for use by the main character in the commercials for one dollar. The commercial, which was originally only scheduled to run for six months on the west coast, became the longest running ad campaign in the history of television.

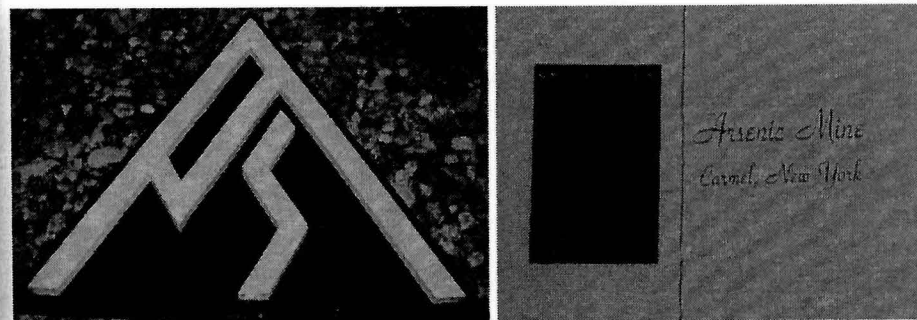


Illustration 19: Arsenic Mine Insignia (l.) & Stationery (r.) (Courtesy of the Rickert-Shatz Family)

1953: On April 12th, Walter Niles Dean passed away at the age of 64 in Brooklyn. He was the son of Colonel Fremont and Margaret Clark Dean. Walter grew up on Mt. Nimham on the farm previously owned by his uncle, William Niles Dean, located on the access road leading up to the fire tower. He was laid to rest in the Raymond Hill Cemetery along with the other members of the Dean family.

1955: Stephen Townsend, the grandson of Stephen and son of Judge Coleman S. Townsend, passed away on March 10th at the age of 76. Stephen Townsend was a miner, stone-mason, and farmer, living off of Smokey Hollow Court, and later Clearpool Road, and had built the John Hayes house on East Boyds Road, among others. He also reportedly built the explosives bunker located on the Fairview Farm, adjacent to the NYS DEC parking area on the mountain. He was laid to rest in his family's plot in the First Baptist Church of Kent Cliffs Cemetery.

1960: In this year, New York State passed "The Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Act," followed by the Environmental Quality Bond Acts of 1972 and 1986. These laws contained provisions for the acquisition of lands to be managed for multiple uses and added to the State Forest system. These lands would serve multiple purposes involving the conservation and development of natural resources, including the preservation of scenic areas, watershed protection, forestry and recreation.

As visitors to the mountain during this period, local residents Wilma and Jim Baker remembered seeing the old Townsend farmhouse and barn in the area which is now used as the NYS DEC parking area on Mt. Nimham Court. The house was located just to the north of the stream and wetland area, on the western side of the parking area. The old barn was located across what is now the parking lot, to the east of the house. These locations and layouts are consistent with the historical maps of the 1800s. Inside the barn was stored an old classic Chrysler Airflow automobile, circa mid-1930s (see Illustration 20).

Soon after, local resident Ralph Merritt was hired by New York State to tear down the old Townsend house on the Fairview Farm, which had become uninhabitable. Mr. Merritt recalled that the two-story shingled house had its gable-side facing down the mountain, adjacent to the man-made pond. Next to the pond was found a potato patch and vegetable garden. The red barn was located just across the driveway, to the east of the house.

Ralph Merritt, who is also a World War II veteran and married Mt. Nimham resident Alice Adams (the daughter of Percy Adams), also built the improved road which connected Clearpool Road with the top of Cole Shears Road. It is along this roadway where the stone chamber, which was labeled as "ruins" on the 1854 map, is found. Across from this chamber is found an impressive collection of rock slabs which New York City mined to build many of the stone fences found around the reservoirs. This was once part of the Smalley farm from the late 1700s throughout the 1800s. Mr. Merritt also performed numerous construction jobs over the years for Bill Pettey, who was associated with the Clearpool Camp.

Even though they no longer owned the property, the Townsend family would still gather on the mountain for annual picnics, enjoying the beautiful views, for many years to come.

1965: Stephen Kenneth ("Ken") Townsend married Ella Hyatt Pombo in this year. She was the widow of Joseph Pombo, and a longtime resident of Whang Hollow on Schrade and Farmers Mills Roads. They would make their

home on the same property where the Robinsontown Schoolhouse (Schoolhouse No. 4) had been located, on the northeast corner of Schrade and Farmers Mills Roads. Ella Hyatt Pombo had lived in the old schoolhouse with her three children by her first marriage for many years following the death of her first husband. Ken Townsend was a direct descendant of the Townsend family from Mt. Nimham, and was the great-great-great grandson of the patriot Lt. Col. Elijah Townsend, and served as the Town of Kent Highway Supervisor for many years.

Bill Adams, the son of Percy Adams, served our country during the Vietnam War with great distinction and honors. He was the sole survivor of his squad, who were engaged in an intense firefight with Viet Cong guerillas. The Adams family had lived on the Fairview Farm on Mt. Nimham in the 1930s and 1940s.

1966: The U.S. Geologic Survey team installed two benchmarks on the top of Mt. Nimham near the fire tower (see Illustration 21). These benchmarks were cemented into holes drilled into two rock outcrops, with Benchmark No. 1 located to the southwest of the tower, and Benchmark No. 2 placed to the northwest of the tower. The USGS determined that the elevation of Benchmark No. 1 measured 1,276 feet above sea level, and Benchmark No. 2's elevation reached 1,273 feet. This is in marked contrast to the previously

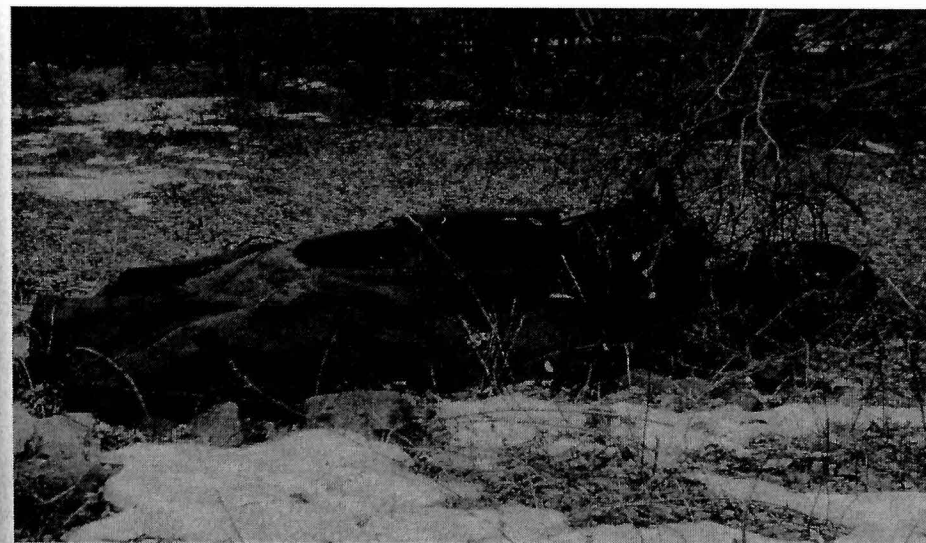


Illustration 20: Remains of the Chrysler Airflow (Photo by author)

published USGS maps which indicated that the mountaintop reached an elevation of 1,426 feet, which would have made it the highest point in

Putnam County. Recent GPS readings, indicating an elevation of between 1,284 and 1,350 feet above sea level at the highest point, suggests that the truth lies somewhere in between the extremes represented by the USGS estimates.

1968: Gil Cryinghawk Tarbox, of the Passamaquoddy and Micmac nations (Algonquin tribes whose homelands included the areas of Maine and southern Canada), served our country with distinction in Vietnam in this year. Mr. Tarbox lives along the northwestern edge of the mountain today, and is an extremely active preservationist and representative of the ways of the Native people.

1970: The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation instituted a reforestation program, which included the Mt. Nimham Multiple Use Area. The DEC-run program introduced an incursion of noxious alien species such as multi-flora rose and Japanese barberry, which have become invasive species on the mountain.

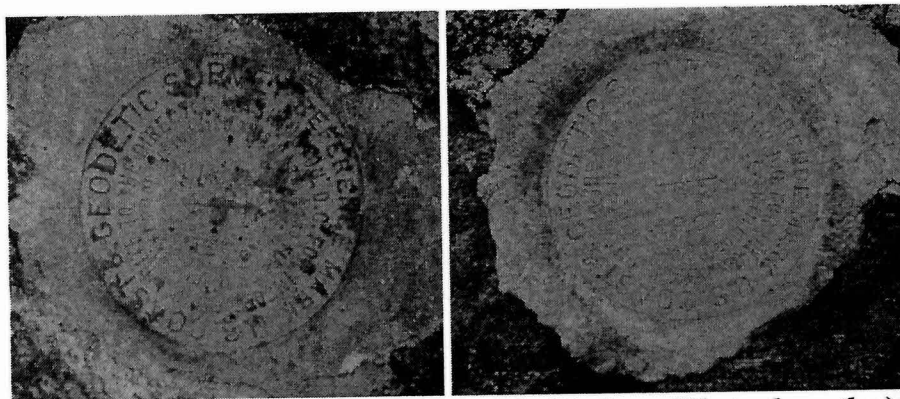


Illustration 21: USGS Benchmarks on Mt. Nimham (Photos by author)

1976: On April 2nd, Clarence James Townsend passed away at the age of 74. He was the brother of Ken Townsend, and the son of Stephen and Anna Augusta Light Townsend. He was also the great-great-grandson of the patriot Elijah Townsend. Clarence Townsend served with distinction as Historian for the Town of Kent.

1980s: Mt. Nimham residents Joan Rickert and Evan Shatz recalled that the old Townsend barn, located on the southwestern corner of what is now the NYS DEC parking area on Mt. Nimham Court, had finally collapsed from the elements and the passage of time. The old barn wood was retrieved by other local residents in the hope that one day it would find another life. The Rickert-Shatz family own the beautiful Woody Cornell A-frame chalet on

the lower eastern side of the mountain (Rickert-Shatz Family oral history).

The fire warden's cabin (see Illustration 22), located at the top of the mountain near the fire tower, which had been abandoned following the discontinuance of the fire watchers in the mid-1950s, became the victim of arson by vandals during this time period. The site of the cabin is now an open field located adjacent to the fire tower. The scattered foundation stones and a nearby midden are the only remnants of this structure today.



Illustration 22: Musician David Amram performing on the front porch of the fire warden's cabin in 1987 (Photo courtesy of George Baum, and Jim and Wilma Baker)

1990: The Clearpool Education Center, located on the western side of the mountain where the Smalley family once lived, redefined itself to become a year-round campus for its public school partners, as well as for other educational and human service organizations.

1994: Vandals destroyed the cabin atop the Mt. Nimham Fire Tower, and damaged the remaining wooden steps leading up to the cabin. The Kent Conservation Advisory Committee and PLAN-Kent, under the leadership of Ray Singer, Dr. George Baum, and James and Wilma Baker, formed a group called "The Friends of Mt. Nimham" to begin raising funds for its restora-

The "Silver Mine Hole" is still in existence on the lower eastern side of the mountain, located on private property, although it is mostly filled in. "Brown's Quarry" can still be seen from Gipsy Trail Road, just south of Mt. Nimham Court.

At the northern end of the mountain, there are numerous stone remnants still remaining from the patriot Samuel Hawkins - Henry Light - Isaac Parker - Harry Maynard farm (see Illustration 29), including the stone chamber, the old well, the barn area and another structure labeled as a "milk house" on the 1854 R.F. O'Connor map. Their fields stretched to the rear, western side of Stockholm Hill.

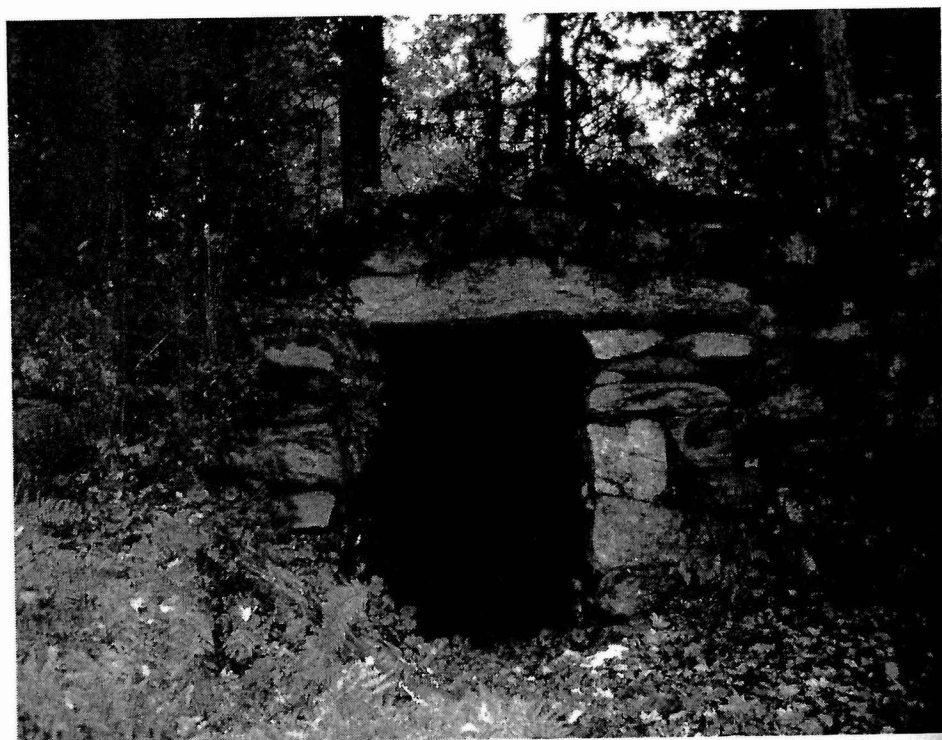


Illustration 29: The Corbelled Stone Chamber from the Hawkins/Light/Parker/Maynard Farm on Maynard Road (Photo by author)

Along the eastern base of the mountain, the "Pine View Farm" continues on as a glimpse into the area's past. Mrs. JoeAnn Feeley Whipple, the daughter of Robert Stanton Feeley, and her son, George C. Whipple III, have made this farm the home to more than 10 different breeds of early American farm animals. Included are Randall Lineback Cattle, American Jacob Sheep, Pilgrim Geese, Indian Runner Ducks, and Narragansett Turkey.

The road originally known as Cole Shears Road is now called Cole Shears Court. The windy dirt road ends at the top of a long hill, one of the many "arms" of the mountain. A corbelled stone chamber located on the old Wixon farm stands directly adjacent to the roadway. Smalley Corners Road also ends prematurely as compared to the maps of the 1800s, with the extension gated off, now merely a trail in the woods. Clear Pool Road has also been shortened from its original length. The site listed on the maps of the 1800s as "Mrs. Smalley and Sons" (Mary Smalley) still exists on this road, and is evidenced by the old log cabin/carriage house and barn found there today. Part of the original road is now just a trail along the western side of the mountain. Another stone chamber can be found along this old road, which was curiously labeled as "ruins" on the 1854 map.

Coles Mills Road, which runs down the southern spine of the mountain, continues to be a town road, having apparently never been formally abandoned by the Town of Kent. Reported to originally have been a Native trail, this historic road has been home to so many patriots over the years.

Reminders of William Niles Dean's presence on the mountain also continue to be evident (see Illustrations 30 and 31). The remains of his house on the road up to the fire tower, the path found on maps entitled "Uncle WN's Path", the well and stone enclosure all serve as enduring reminders of

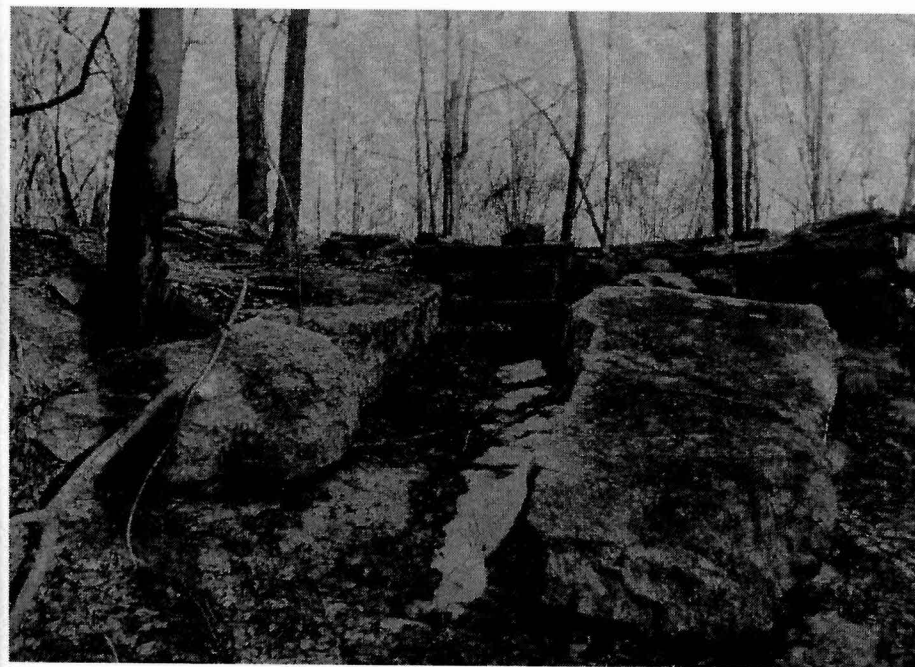


Illustration 30: Entryway to the Dean House (Photo by author)

Follow the Romany patteran
Sheer to the Austral Light,
Where the besom of God is the wild South wind,
Sweeping the sea-floors white.

Follow the Romany patteran
West to the sinking sun,
Till the junk-sails lift through the houseless drift.
And the east and west are one.

Follow the Romany patteran
East where the silence broods
By a purple wave on an opal beach
In the hush of the Mahim woods.

"The wild hawk to the wind-swept sky,
The deer to the wholesome wold,
And the heart of a man to the heart of a maid,
As it was in the days of old."

The heart of a man to the heart of a maid --
Light of my tents, be fleet.
Morning waits at the end of the world,
And the world is all at our feet!

Appendix G:

Origins of the Corbelled Stone Chambers

Corbelled stone chambers (i.e., those covered with rock roof slabs with the side walls angled inward toward each other) can be found within the Mt. Nimham area, as well as throughout the town of Kent and Putnam County. There are a total of seven corbelled stone chambers on the mountain itself. One is located on Mt. Nimham Court, at the Smalley/Brown/Dean farm location. There is also an explosives bunker (not to be confused with a corbelled chamber) located on the Fairview Farm owned by the Townsend family, adjacent to the DEC parking area. Another corbelled chamber is found on Coles Mills Road on the old Russell farm, which is partially collapsed. An additional chamber is found on Cole Shears Road at the old John and Wright Wixon farm site, with yet another to be found further down toward Clear Pool on "Old Clear Pool Road." Another chamber is located at the site of the Samuel Hawkins farm on Old Maynard Road, on the northern end of the mountain. Finally, there are two more corbelled chambers located near Clear Pool. It is widely believed that the early farmers used these structures as root cellars and ice houses, since the cool temperatures within offered a good storage place for their livestock feed, farm outputs and excess meat, in an age before electricity and refrigeration. In fact, it was often said that a farmer's wealth could be measured by the amount of ice he could produce and store.

But who built these chambers? While the vast majority of historians believe the early farmers are responsible for their construction, some scholars believe that other Europeans arrived in North America long before Columbus and Henry Hudson. It is known that the Celts were a well-organized sea power when Julius Caesar and his Roman Legions invaded the British Isles in 55 B.C. The Celts were noted as having sophisticated ocean-going vessels even at that time. Stone structures found in New Hampshire are believed, by these scholars, to have been Celtic temple observatories dedicated to their sun-god "Bel." Other structures in Vermont are theorized to have been similarly dedicated to Celtic gods and goddesses, with reports of ancient artifacts such as burial urns having been found (Fell).

Celtic passage tombs are great mounds of earth covering a womblike central chamber of large stones entered by a serpentine passage. *Newgrange* is the renowned passage tomb of Ireland whose otherwise dark central chamber is lit once a year by the dawn of sunlight at Winter Solstice. This tomb is nearly as large as a football field -- and it was built 1,000 years